
MEMBER QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

- 1.1 The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12.2, the following Member questions have been received:
- 1.2 From Cllr M G Wilkinson to the Leader of the Council:-
- 1.3 'Rochford District Council has reached out to the residents for their views on the current sites being considered as part of the new Local Plan. In a letter to the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP dated 9 November 2020, the Leader of the Council, together with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Chair of the Planning Policy Sub-Committee, urged the Government to rethink the way in which housing targets are set for the future and also states that there is already a huge strain on local infrastructure. I am sure that all Members will agree with this sentiment. We already see our road network at a standstill. GP surgeries unable to cope and patients unable to obtain a simple doctor's appointment. Schools at capacity and in some cases in excess of their capacity. Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that before any more housing is delivered within our district, the infrastructure needs to be addressed? To that end,
- 1) Can he also explain to this Council what his administration is doing to ensure that proper and improved infrastructure measures are incorporated within the new Local Plan so that Rochford District has the infrastructure to enable us to deliver the housing we are being asked for.
 - 2) What is the Council doing to engage with Essex County Highways Department to ensure suitable road improvements are made to enable us to deliver the housing needs of the District?'
- 1.4 From Cllr Ms T D Knight to the Portfolio Holder for IT, Tourism, Housing & Parking:-
- 1.5 'Will the Portfolio Holder for IT, Tourism, Housing and Parking advise on the current availability of the electric vehicle charging points in Rochford District provided by or via RDC and their usage to date? Will the Portfolio Holder also advise on the costs RDC has incurred in providing these electrical vehicle charging points and the charges to users and revenue to date from this provision?'
- 1.6 From Cllr Mrs T L Carter to the Deputy Leader:-
- 1.7 'This Council notes that the DEFRA was updated within RDC in 2018 and included in this was Animal Welfare.

It is understood that there is a backlog taking up to 10 weeks for applications within the animal welfare department issuing licences and answering general questions to residents. It's understood that currently there are only two officers employed in the Licensing department.

Will the Portfolio Holder, Cllr Cheryl Roe, explain how and when this will be improved?

Also, can the Portfolio Holder advise us if there is a plan in place to either bring in extra staff to help reduce this waiting period in a reasonable timeframe and the plans to continue to manage this service?

This Council understands that dog groomers/walkers aren't required to have any licences at all to perform this service. Since this pandemic more and more people have undertaken this occupation to enhance their income and it has become a popular business venture with little or no experience at all and is currently unregulated.

Can the Portfolio Holder reassure pet owners by investigating and reviewing this current situation and bring in controlled measures necessary to ensure the safety of animals so catered for?

Finally, could the Portfolio Holder explain how the star rating system currently in place works and how it is regulated and what steps will be taken to improve publicity and understanding of this system?



Angela Law

Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic

Background Papers:-

None.

For further information please contact Sonia Worthington (Principal Democratic & Corporate Services Officer) on:-

Phone: 01702 318141

Email: sonia.worthington@rochford.gov.uk

If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.